

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) 50 trains on Indian Railways have been nominated for posting of train superintendents out of which 5 trains, viz, 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail, 5645/5646 Dadar-Guwahati Express, 6519/6520 Bangalore-Guwahati Express, 6321/6322 Trivandrum-Guwahati Express and 6313/6314 Cochin-Guwahati Express run on N.F. Railway.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### Advertisement for Calling Tenders

370. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Hyderabad Telecom Department has issued an advertisement in various editions of an English daily calling tenders for works worth lakhs of rupees;

(b) if so, whether the last date for submission of the tenders have already expired when the advertisement published;

(c) if so, whether it has been alleged that it was a pre-determined bid by the Telecom Department to allot civil works at various places in the State running into several lakhs of rupees to their own men;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted as to how tenders have given when the expiry date has already expired;

(e) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(f) the action taken against those held responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Advertisements are issued to Newspapers of different languages such as English, and other languages with specific stipulations.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. In specific circumstance, such as when a reasonable notice is not available between the date of publication in Newspaper and stipulated date of receipt of Tender requisite action is taken to consider postponing the date of receipt of tenders. Requisite Public Notifications are issued accordingly.

(d) to (f) In view of the reply to Para (a) to (c), this does not arise.

#### Subsidised STD Calls

371. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have subsidised the STD calls recently;

(b) if so, whether this facility is available to Armed forces and Para Military personnel posted in boarder districts of North Eastern Region;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Jawans are not able to avail of this facility due to lack of basic infrastructure in border districts; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make STD facilities available in border districts of North Eastern region keeping in view the hardships of Jawans ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. STD Tariff was restructured with effect from 15.2.97 to ease the traffic congestion.

(b) and (c) The restructured STD tariff is applicable to the entire country including border districts of North Eastern Region.

(d) and (e) In the seven North Eastern States, Government have already taken action to provide STD to all the District Headquarters.

STD facility will be made available to all the Sub-Divisional Headquarters and Tehsil Headquarters with telephone exchanges in the border areas of the North Eastern States during 1997-99 subject to availability of equipment.

[Translation]

#### Halt of trains at Tundla Junction

372. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide a halt of Nilanchal Express at Tundla and Jaleshwar, Purva Express at Firozabad, Marudhar Express, Jodhpur Howrah Express and Vaishali Express at Tundla Junction, Jaleshwar Road Station and Firozabad Station (Uttar Pradesh) Keeping in view the demand of the public of those places;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and  
(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (c) 4863/4864 Marudhar Express and 2553/2554 Vaishali Express are already stopping at Tundla. 4863/4864 Marudhar and 2307/2308 Jodhpur-Howrah Expresses do not touch Jalesar Road. However, the feasibility of providing stoppages of Neelachal and Jodhpur-Howrah Expresses at Tundla; Neelachal & Vaishali Expresses at Jaleshar Road and Poorva, Marudhar, Jodhpur-Howrah & Vaishali Expresses at Firozabad has been examined but not found justified at present.

[English]

#### Rural Welfare Schemes in Andhra Pradesh

373. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology has expressed satisfaction over the various schemes implemented by voluntary organisations in Andhra Pradesh particularly in Guntur District;

(b) if so, the present status of sanitation, drinking water supply and housing schemes in the district; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be implemented in the district fully ?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) CAPART has reported that by and large it is satisfied with the implementation of the projects sanctioned by it to the voluntary organisations in Andhra Pradesh, including those in Guntur District. However, in Andhra Pradesh 23 voluntary organisations have been blacklisted and temporary funding restrictions have been imposed on 31 voluntary organisations by CAPART. Out of these, 3 blacklisted organisations and 5 voluntary organisations placed under 'temporary funding restrictions' are in Guntur District.

(b) and (c) The number of projects sanctioned under Central Rural Sanitation Programme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Rural Houseing Scheme by CAPART in Guntur District are as under :

Scheme	No. of projects sanctioned
CRSP	55
ARWSP	22
Rural Housing	16

The sanctioned projects are at various stages of implementation.

#### Requirement and Poduction of Steel

374. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the requirement and production of steel in the country as at present and extent of imports;

(b) the authentic projections regarding demand and production for the next 5 years in the country;

(c) the capacity added during the last three years by new units/existing projects in steel sector both in public and private sector;

(d) the details of major steel proposals cleared by the Government during the last one year and their present status in terms of execution of project;

(e) the details regarding the projects likely to be completed during 1997-98 including modernisation of PSUs; and

(f) the details of ongoing and new steel projects approved upto 30.6.97 in Maharashtra and their project-wise profile ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The estimated demand and availability of finished steel during the year 1997-98 are as follows :

(In million tonnes)

Demand	Availability
24.72	23.84

On an average India imports about 1.5 million tonnes of finished steel per annum.

(b) The Working Group for IX Plan has estimated the demand and availability of finished steel upto the year 2001-02, the terminal year of the Plan, as under :-